

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A connector, comprising:

a housing (1) formed with at least one cavity (3) for receiving a terminal fitting (25) along an inserting direction (ID), a retainer mount hole (10) formed in the housing (1) and communicating with the cavity (3); and

a retainer (35) insertable into the retainer mount hole (10) to engage a retainer locking portion (28; 29) on the terminal fitting (25), thereby locking the terminal fitting (25);

wherein at least one of the retainer (35) and the housing (1) comprise a guide (14; 42) for obliquely guiding the retainer (35) with respect to the inserting direction (ID) of the terminal fitting (25) and for pushing the terminal fitting (25) to a proper position in the cavity (3); and

the retainer locking portion (28; 29) comprising a biting portion (56) with a pointed end facing toward a cooperating surface (46A; 46B) of the retainer (35) for biting in the cooperating surface (46A; 46B) of the retainer (35).

2. The connector of claim 1, wherein the retainer mount hole (10) is formed at an intermediate longitudinal position of the housing (1) so as to be open to three sides thereof.

3. The connector of claim 1, wherein the guide for obliquely guiding the retainer (35) with respect to the inserting direction (ID) is on a portion of the retainer (35) held substantially in sliding contact with the housing (1) when the retainer (35) is pushed into the retainer mount hole (10).

4. The connector of claim 1, wherein the cavity (3) is formed substantially along a connecting direction (CD) of the housing (1).

5. The connector of claim 1, further comprising a resiliently deformable lock (5) in the cavity (3) for engaging the terminal fitting (25) when the terminal fitting (25) is inserted to a proper position, wherein the lock (5) doubly locks the terminal fitting (25) in cooperation with the retainer (35).

6. The connector of claim 1, wherein the retainer locking portion (28; 29) comprises a stabilizer (29) disposed for permitting insertion of the terminal fitting (25) into the cavity (3) when the terminal fitting (25) is in a proper orientation while interfering with a wall surface of the cavity (3) to hinder the insertion of the terminal fitting (25) when the terminal fitting (25) is inserted in an orientation different from the proper orientation.

7. The connector of claim 6, wherein the retainer locking portion (28; 29) comprises a projection (28) projecting adjacent the stabilizer (29) and engageable with the retainer (35) together with the stabilizer (29) for locking the retainer (35), a rear end of the projection (28) being at an angle to the inserting direction (ID) and being engageable with the cooperating surface (46A; 46B) of the retainer (35).

8. The connector of claim 1, wherein the housing (1) has a plurality of cavities (3) arranged at a plurality of stages, the retainer mount hole (10) communicating with the cavities (3) at each of the stages, and wherein the retainer (35) is configured for locking the terminal fittings (25) into the cavities (3) at each of the stages.

9. A connector, comprising:

a housing (1) formed with a plurality of cavities (3) extending along an inserting direction (ID), a retainer mount hole (10) formed in the housing (1) and communicating with each of the cavities (3);

terminal fittings (25) mounted respectively in the cavities (3), each said terminal fitting (25) having a projection (28) and a stabilizer (29), the projection (28) having a rear end aligned substantially normal to the inserting direction (ID), the stabilizer (29) having a pointed rear end (56), the rear ends of the projection (28) and the stabilizer (29) being substantially aligned with the retainer mount hole (10) when the respective terminal fitting (25) is mounted properly in the respective cavity (3); and

a retainer (35) insertable into the retainer mount hole (10) and having cooperating surfaces (46A; 46B) for engaging the rear ends of the projection (28) and the stabilizer (29) on each of the terminal fittings (25), thereby locking the terminal fittings (25) in the respective cavities (3).

10. The connector of claim 9, wherein the pointed rear end (56) defines an acute angle.

11. The connector of claim 10, wherein the retainer (35) and the housing (1) comprise guides (14; 42) for obliquely guiding the retainer (35) with respect to the inserting direction (ID) of the terminal fitting (25) and for pushing any insufficiently inserted terminal fitting (25) to a proper position in the cavity (3).

12. The connector of claim 11, wherein the retainer mount hole (10) is formed at an intermediate longitudinal position of the housing (1) so as to be open to three sides of the housing (1).

13. The connector of claim 9, further comprising a resiliently deformable lock (5) in the cavity (3) for engaging the terminal fitting (25) when the terminal fitting (25) is inserted to a proper position, wherein the lock (5) doubly locks the terminal fitting (25) in cooperation with the retainer (35).

14. The connector of claim 9, wherein the housing is formed with a groove for receiving the stabilizer (29) when the terminal fitting (25) is in a proper orientation while interfering with a wall surface of the cavity (3) to hinder the insertion of the terminal fitting (25) when the terminal fitting (25) is inserted in an orientation different from the proper orientation.